

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6027

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS VIEWS ISRAEL-US RELATIONS FOLLOWING
SUSPENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS

1. MAR 25 PRESS CONTINUES TO WRITE ABOUT FUTURE OF US-ISRAELI RELATIONS FOLLOWING SUSPENSION OF PEACE TALKS AND IN LIGHT OF STATEMENTS MADE BY USG OFFICIALS RE REASSESSMENT OF US MID EAST POLICY. IT IS GENERALLY EXPECTED THAT SOME TENSION IN RELATIONS COULD RESULT AND THAT IN ORDER TO PREVENT A SERIOUS EROSION ISRAEL MUST MOBILIZE ALL ITS INFLUENCE IN THE US.

2. DAVAR (ESHED) REPORTS IN FRONTPAGE STORY THAT PRESIDENT FORD SENT TWO MESSAGES TO PM RABIN. "THE SECOND MESSAGE, SENT ON SATURDAY, ALSO CONTAINED SEVERE AND UNPOLISHED EXPRESSIONS WHICH HAVE CAUSED ANXIETY IN JERUSALEM, BUT COULD NOT CHANGE THE INEVITABLE ISRAELI DECISION. DELIBERATIONS
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AND CONCLUSIONS OF US NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL... RE

THE ME ARE AWAITED IN JERUSALEM, WHERE IT IS HOPED THAT INSPITE OF THE UNDERSTANDABLE DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE FAILURE OF KISSINGER'S MISSION... THE PRESIDENT WON'T RUSH TO CONCLUSIONS AND THAT NO CRISIS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL TAKE PLACE... JERUSALEM IS PREPARING FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THE NEED FOR AN URGENT INFO CAMPAIGN TO MOBILIZE AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION..."

3. HAARETZ (GOLAN) REPORTS THAT "CONCLUTATIONS ARE CONTINUING IN JERUSALEM RE THE NEXT POLITICAL STEPS AND THE ISRAELI INFO CAMPAIGN. IT IS GENERALLY NOT BELIEVED THAT KISSINGER WILL BLAME ONE OF THE SIDES FOR THE FAILURE OF THE TALKS, BUT THERE IS A FEAR THAT THE AMERICAN SECRETARY WILL REPEAT HIS EVALUATION THAT ISRAEL HAS SHOWN 'SHORTSIGHTEDNESS'. THIS EVALUATION IS TAKEN SERIOUSLY IN JERUSALEM BECAUSE IT DOES NOT REFLECT THE READINESS PROVIED BY ISRAEL DURING THE TALKS... SENIOR ELEMENTS SAID YESTERDAY, UNOFFICIALLY, THAT SUCH DECLARATIONS BY KISSINGER DAMAGE HIS ABILITY TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THE SIDES IN FUTURE..." HAARETZ (IN A COMMENTARY BY MARCUS) ALSO PREDICTS THAT "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE A PERIOD OF CONSIDERABLE TENSION AND PRESSURES ON US: THESE PRESSURES ARE NOT ENTIRELY CONNECTED WITH THE QUESTION OF WHETHER WE ARE RIGHT OR NOT BUT WITH THE PROCESS OF THE DECLINE OF THE WEST. WE SHALL HAVE TO MOBILIZE AMERICAN JEWRY-- STILL A TREMENDOUS POWER-- AND TO EXPLAIN TO THE AMERICANS THE BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND CAMBODIA..."

4. PRESS ALSO HIGHLIGHTS STATEMENTS BY USG OFFICIALS THAT US ME POLICY WILL BE REASSESSED AND THAT "A CERTAIN REDUCTION IN AID TO ISRAEL MAY BE CONSIDERED." JERUSALEM POST AND AL-HAMISHMAR (BLITZER) REPORT THAT STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT FORD RE REEVALUATION OF US ME POLICY TOOK ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON BY SURPRISE. "RABIN AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON ATTEMPTED TO DOWNPALY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MESSAGE (SENT BY PRESIDENT FORD TO PM RABIN LAST THURSDAY), BUT WASHINGTON'S OFFICIALS ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY APPEARED TO CONFIRM ISRAEL'S WORST FEARS RE A POSSIBLE HARDENING IN US-ISRAEL RELATIONS..."

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BLITZER CONTINUES THAT "ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON... ADMITTED THAT AMERICA'S OFFICIAL STATEMENTS WERD NOT 'VERY NICE.' THEY COULD NOT SPECULATE ON THE REASONS FOR THE, INSISTING THAT THEY WERE SURPRISED..."

DAVAR (BARNEA) STORY ALSO REPORTS ON USG STATEMENTS AND STRESSES THAT THEY "REFLECT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL... TO WITHDRAW FROM POSITIONS IT HAS ADOPTED DURING THE TALKS. SEVERAL OF THE PARTICIPATNTS AT THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD

EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE INTENTNTION OF THE PRESSURE IS
TO CREATE A BACKGROUND FOR INVITING KISSINGER AGAIN TO THE ME..."

5. YEDIOT (GUNEY) DESCRIBES STATEMENT MADE BY KISSINGER
AND STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN RE US ME POLICY AS "A SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT."
" IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT AID TO ISRAEL-- AND TO
EGYPT-- WILL BE CUT. SUCH A STEP WILL BE TOO EXTREME....BUT
IS IS CERTAINLY A SIGN THAT IF THE ADMINISTRATION
HAD THUS FAR PLANNED TO PROPOSE TO CONGRESS
APPROVAL OF A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE DOLS 2.5 BILLION AID
REQUESTED BY ISRAEL... IT WILL NOW PROPOSE A SMALLER SUM...
THE INTERPRETATION OF THE REASSESSMENT MAY ALSO MEAN THAT
CERTAIN TYPES OF MODERN WEAPONS PROMISED TO ISRAEL WON'T
BE DELIVERED, OR PERHAPS WILL BE DELAYED. IT MA ALSO MEAN THAT
AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT IN GENEVA WILL BE REDUCED... IT
IS POSSIBLE THEREFORE THAT THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S
MESSAGE TO PM RABIN WAS LESS SERIOUS THAN THE PRESS HAS
REPORTED: BUT THE WARNING IT CONTAINED VERY SERIOUS
AND WE ARE ENTERING A PERIOD OF TENSION IN ISRAEL-
AMERICAN RELATIONS..."

6. MAARIV EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON THE STATEMENTS: " ONE
THING MUST BE CLEAR TO AMERICAN POLITICIANS WHO MAINTAIN
THAT THE REACTION TO THE FAILURE OF KISSINGER'S MEDIATION
EFFORTS MUST BE EXPRESSED BY CUTTING AID TO ISRAEL-- BY THIS
METHOD THEY WILL ACHIEVE NO CHANGE IN ISRAEL POSITION, NO
READINESS TO GIVE UP THE EXISTING SECURITY, AND NO 'SOFTENING'
OF POSITIONS.... THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THIS COUNTRY ARE NOT
FOR SALE IN RETURN FOR SO MANY HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF
DOLLARS; AND NO GOVT WILL RETURN TERRITORIES IN
THE SINAI, OR ANYWHERE ELSE, JUST TO OBTAIN AID. IT IS
ASSUMED THAT... KISSINGER UNDERSTANDS THIS BASIC FACT, AND
THEREFORE CORRECTED THE STATEMENT MADE BY STATE DEPT
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SPOKESMAN..."

7. PRESS ALSO REPORT THAT AS RESULT OF FEAR OF EXPECTED
CONFRONTATION WITH AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION" ISRAEL IS
MOBILIZING ITS SUPPORTERS IN THE CONGRESS AND HEADS OF
JEWISH PUBLIC TO PREVENT AN EROSION." (MAARIV, BY BEN IN
NYC) AMB DINITZ IS REPORTED AS PLAYING A KEY
ROLE IN THE EFFORTS WHICH INCLUDE MEETINGS WITH SENATORS,
REPS AND OTHERS WITH THE AIM OF "PERUSADING
AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION THAT EGYPT... CAUSED THE FAILURE
OF TALKS... FOR THE TIME BEING ISRAEL IS GRATEFUL TO
KISSINGER FOR HIS EFFORTS AND HOPES THAT THE ADMINISTRATION
WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IT. BUT IF THIS APPROACH IS
CHANGED, ISRAEL WILL SEEK OTHER SUPPORTERS, EVEN AMONG
THE CRITICS OF FORD AND KISSINGER..."

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